is an old technology plant which we got from Canada and it has developed problems in Canada also and they have decommissioned such plants. But we have managed, through native ingenuity, to continue working this plant. Of course if we fail to repair it, we have to de-commission it. But a last effort is being made and I have been told by some of our top scientists that do not give up the prospects of having this defect set right before the end of the year.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question. No. 244.

Crimes in running trains

*244. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of crimes committed in the running trains during the last two years;

(b) whether these crimes are on the increase; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken to check such crimes in the running trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The prevention, detection and investigation of crime on the railways is the responsibility of the Government Railway Police which is under State Governments. The information regarding the number of crimes committed in the running trains during the last two years is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Government Railway Police provides escorts on fast/superfast Mail/Express trains according to local conditions and requirements. Railway Protection Force also assists Government Railway Police in this task.

DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Sir, the hon. Minister has not given any answer as to what steps the Central Government have taken to check such crimes in the running trains. However, I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to what extent GRP has been effective in checking the crimes.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, as I said, the responsibility of checking crimes on the railways rests with the State Governments and the Government Railway Police is under the State Governments. As far as figures of crimes are concerned, I cannot claim that the figures with me are totally accurate, because many States have not reported any figures and the information is not available. I have some figures and on the basis of those figures I can say that there it does not appear to be any alarming increase in crimes on the railways. But as I said, I will collect these figures from the State Governments and lay them on the Table of the House.

DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Sir, I would like to know whether the Railway Protection Force is under the control of the Central Government or the State Governments.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, prevention, detection and investigation of crime is the Responsibility of the Government Railway Police (GRP) which is under the State Governments. The Railway Protection Force is under the Central Government and its duties are different; it is not concerned with prevention, detection and investigation of crime.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, under the rules of our Rajya Sabha, Parliament questions relating to crime on railways other than offences relating to pilferage must be answered by the Minister. Therefore, you have to collect the information and give.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I have said that I will collect the information and lay it on the Table of the House.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Sir, the Minister has cleverly evaded his responsibility. Railways always take the plea that they are not responsible for the safety of the passengers and that their

Protection Force is only there for the protection of railway property. It is a ridiculous argument. When they take the passengers they have to ensure their security and safety also. Because of this dual responsibility of the GRP and the RPF, crimes are increasing. State Governments have got their own problems. With regard to crime on a running train, particularly when the trains pass through more than one State—most of the trains pass through more than one State there is no coordination between one State and another. Therefore, it is necessary to arm the RPF with police powers and you should have only one agency to deal with these crimes from starting to the end. You cannot throw the responsibility on the State Government because static establishments can be protected by the State Government, but crime on moving trains should be the responsibility of the railways. Will the Minister consider amendment of the RPF Act so that the RPF will take full responsibility for the safety of the passengers?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, as honourable Members know, public order and police are State subjects. May I assume, Sir, that what the honourable Member has just now said is not only his personal opinion but a view on behalf of the State Governments, in which event certainly we shall look into it to examine whether we can take over powers in respect of public order and police?

...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PARVATHENENI UPENDRA: I have made a distinction between moving trains and static property. It is crime on moving trains. It is not only one State. Miscreant enter in one State and detrain in another State. How will you coordinate? Which State Government will take responsibility? Somebody will enter at Agra and get down somewhere in Gwalior ...*(Interruptions)*...

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: He should be answerable for moving trains.

That is what has been said...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Don't run trains at all!

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: The State Government would protect railway installation, track and other things. That is the responsibility of the State Government. For passengers the railways should take the responsibility.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are now making a suggestion that the Central Government should assume responsibility in respect of matters which occur in running trains which pass through more than one State.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI: Sir, if I may comment on that, this is an area which is giving us certain problems not only with running trains but with other crimes also which cross State boundaries, and I have appreciated what the Member said. We will certainly look into how the Central Government can locate these areas which have traditionally been in the State List, but we will certainly look at it to see what we can do to try and help coordinate, or have some system where the Centre can perhaps be more active.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, passengers travelling from Tamil Nadu by Madras-Dadar Express very often are attacked by hooligans. I made a special mention on 13th July this year about a particular incident which took place on 21st June wherein passengers in a sleeper coach were seriously injured. But, Sir, I was very much pained to receive a reply from the then Minister, Mrs. Mohsina Kidwai, which says:

> "...there was no complaint about any assault or rowdyism from any passenger and, therefore, the train started its journey after three to four minutes' detention. Even at Pune, the next halt of the train, nobody had complained about any assault or had approached the railway staff on duty for any assistance."

But the *Times of India* of 23rd June reported:

"When the train stopped after the chain was pulled, the guard did not come up to investigate the reason for the alarm. At Pune when Mr. Kaliamoorthy went to register his complaint, the station master said that since the scene of action was Dhond the report must be lodged there."

So, Sir, it happened. Now the Minister says nobody complained at Pune and no complaint was lodged there. My complaint was that the Station Master refused to register the complaint. Now the Minister says that no such thing had happened. This is a reply prepared by a bureaucrat and signed by the Minister. This is how the Government works. Sir, I seek your protection. Sir, when you allow us to make special mentions on issues like this, we are getting such replies from the Minister. Sir, instead of pulling up the officials and taking action against them, they are justifying the action. Therefore, I would like to know from the Government whether the Government will change this utterly irresponsible and indifferent and callous attitude and take action.

MR. CHAIRMAN: On what?

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: I have completely narrated the incident, Sir; the particular incident I have narrated. And I have received a reply like this from the Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you want to know what action will be taken on the incident or on the report?

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: On the incident as well as on the report.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, if I remember right, I think the case has been brought to my notice. I have looked into it. And if the hon. Minister will pass on whatever he has written to the Minister of Railways, I will look into it. I will draft the reply, and I will sign it.

श्री सत्यपाल मलिक : श्रीमन्, रेलों में जो अपराध होते हैं, उनके प्रिवेन्शन और डिटेक्शन के सिलसिले में तो माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी ने माननीय सदस्यों के सुझाव के संबंध में कहा है। वह भी बहुत जरूरी है। मैं एक बुनियादी बात उठाना चाहता हूं और वह यह है कि रेल में अगर किसी के साथ कोई घटना होती है, तो वह आदमी दूर-दराज का होता है। कुल मिलाकर ऐसी हालत मुल्क में होती जा रही है कि चोरी, डकैती या कत्ल का कोई भी मामला हो, अपराधियों की सजा नहीं हो पाती है। मौजूदा कानून के तहत न तो गवाही हो पाती है और न ही अपराधियों की शिनाख्त हो पाती है। जी०आर०पी० का तो और भी बुरा सिस्टम है। आम आदमी उससे परसू नहीं कर पाता है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि पिछले साल चोरी, डकैती और कत्ल के कितने मामले रोशनी में आये, उनमें से कितने मामलों में तहकीकात में सफलता प्राप्त हुई और कितने मामलों में प्रोसिक्यूशन हुआ और उन लोगों को जो इसमें इन्वोल्व हैं, उनको क्या सजा हुई ?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, we are aware that the arrangements now available are not entirely adequate. The strength of the GRP is a little over 30,000. It was 20,000 in 1979. We have increased it by another 10,000 in the last seven years. We have 11,000 trains running every day passing through 7,065 stations on 61,460 km. of the railway track. Therefore, it is obviously not adequate. We should take steps to strengthen the GRP.

Sir, as I said, the figures with me are not complete, and I shall certainly not claim that they are accurate. But on the basis of the figures available with me, as I submitted, Sir, it does not give a picture of an alarming increase of crimes although the crime situation is quite bad. I will collect the figures and place them on the table of the House.

SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA: Sir, the other day in a meeting

of the informal Consultative Committee of South Central Railway, I have raised that thefts, cheatings and nuisance have become the order of the day in the Dakshin Express. After that in the second week of the last month, that is October, a particular theft took place in the Dakshin Express, in which my brother-in-law's suit-case and some other articles were stolen. He has lodged a complaint. But till today there has been no action on the complaint. Next I myself complained in the meeting. I would like to know from the Minister whether the Government is going to take any action about the issues raised by Members either in the House or in meetings or they will simply leave them to the winds.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Is he the Railway Minister or the Home Minister?

SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA: Crime concerns the Home Ministry.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Radhakrishna, I read the rule. Those relating to pilferage etc. should be raised with the Railway Minister. Those relating to crimes like killing, injuring, wounding, should be raised with the Home Minister.

SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA: I am referring to a particular theft.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are a new Member. Please read the rules.

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : श्रीमन्, माननीय मंत्री जी के उत्तर से संबंधित ही मेरा प्रश्न है। माननीय मंत्री जी ने बताया कि मेल ट्रेन्स और एक्सप्रेस ट्रेन्स में जनता की सुरक्षा की व्यवस्था सरकार की ओर से की जाती है। लेकिन पैसन्जर्स ट्रेन्स में कोई इस प्रकार के जुर्म नहीं होते हैं। जिनकी चर्चा आमतौर पर की जाती है और जहां पर सुरक्षा की व्यवस्था होती है, वहां पर इस प्रकार के जुर्म होते हैं और वह दिन-प्रतिदिन बढ़ते चले जा रहे हैं। तो यदि वह सही है, मेरी शिकायत, तो क्या माननीय मंत्री जी और अधिक सुरक्षा की आगे और पीछे ट्रेन्स में व्यवस्था करेंगे, मेल में और एक्सप्रेस ट्रेन में और क्या माननीय मंत्री जी को यह भी जानकारी है कि रेलवे कर्मचारियों के सहयोग से जो बदमाश एलिमेंट्स हैं, वह रेलवे की खिड़कियों को और उनके दरवाजों को खराब रखते हैं और उनको तोड़कर —मुझे मालूम है कि एम०एल०एज़० का भी और एम० पीज़० का भी सामान निकाल लेते हैं, जो सहारनपुर से दिल्ली को गाड़ी जाती है ?

तो क्या इस प्रकार की व्यवस्था, मंत्री महोदय, करेंगे जिससे कि यह चोरी और डकैती न हो ?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: As I submitted, the GRP today provides escorts in Super-fast, fast, mail and express trains. It is not as if that other trains do not requires escorts. Other trains, particularly those which run at night do require escorts, but the constraint is again on the manpower. I am not denying that sometimes the fence starts eating the crop. I am not denying men in the two forces sometimes connive in such crimes. I can only repeat that it is our intention to control crimes and we shall impress upon the State Governments, and through them the GRP, to maintain greater vigil and be more efficient in controlling crimes. As Prime Minister said whatever we can do from the Central Government including looking into sharing responsibility or coordinating the attack on crimes, we shall do.

श्रीमती शान्ती पहाड़िया : श्रीमन्, चलती गाड़ी में जो अपराधी चढ़ते हैं, यह गार्ड को छुरी, चाकू दिखला कर चढ़ते हैं। गार्ड की जान को खतरा होता है, इसलिये गार्ड उसको चढ़ा लेते हैं।

ऐक बार मैं भरतपुर से आ रही थी, तो मैंने देखा कि एक महिला भी उन लोगों में थी। ऐसा गिरोह होता है।

तो उस महिला ने क्या किया कि दूसरी लेडी की जंजीर उतारी और फटाफट अपने मुंह में डाल ली और निगल गई और वह उसको तलाश करने लगे कि चेन कहां गई, कहां गई ?

वह तो निगल गई । वह तो मेरे पास ही बैठी हुई थी और मैंने उसे खाते हुए देखा था, जो वह निगल गई । मैं उस डिब्बे से दूसरे डिब्बे में चली गयी कि यह तो बड़े खतरनाक इन्सान हैं । आगे जाकर देखा कि अफीम की पोटली काफी बड़ी लिये और उसके पीछे पुलिस भागी चली आ रही है और वह अफीम की पोटली लेकर आगे आगे भाग रही है और वह लेडी आकर मेरे बराबर में बैठ गयी । मैं खिड़की के पास बैठी हुई थी । तो आगे चिड़ियाघर का एक नाला आता है और जब पुलिस वाले मेरे पास तक आये, तो उसने उस पोटली को फटाफट नाले में फेंक दिया ।

तो मैं मंत्री महोदय से पूछना चाहती हूं कि ऐसे अपराधियों के लिये गार्ड और अधिक बढ़ानी चाहिये और बढ़ाई है या नहीं ? यदि नहीं बढ़ाई है, तो इस संबंध में मंत्री जी का क्या विचार है ?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can also give a purgative so that the chain may be brought out.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Sir, brilliant that our Home Minister happens to be he has drawn an extremely technical reason to wriggle out of the situation. He says it is a matter of public order and the GRP is under the State Government. Therefore, virtually what he means to say is why are we asking this question to him. The difficulty also arises when you say that questions on pilferages and thefts can be asked from the Railway Minister. Sir, the problem is far more serious than this. My sold transistor was stolen when I was in the Lok Sabha in 1968. With tears in my eyes I pleaded with the Railway Minister that if he could not restore my transistor, he may give me some money for it. He told me to ask the Home Minister, as he was my friend. When I asked the Home Minister, he said Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister was my friend and should ask him. And when I asked the Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister, he said what was the guarantee that the theft had taken place only in Madhya Pradesh. He said my train came from Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and UP. By then it was too much and my tears have been left unwiped till today and the money also has not been paid nor has the transistor been restored. Sir, his is really assuming a menacing dimension. To say that the GRP is under the State Administration and, therefore, all is well is a state of being extremely complacent. Therefore my question to him. Sir, public order may be a state subject, but what about entry 2A in List I which is the Union subject, that is, deployment of forces, the jurisdiction is in his hands. Sir, he is a lawyer that is why I am asking this question. What prevents you from deploying your forces to ensure that at least the travelling people are safe at the hands of these forces. They are squarely under the authority of Union Home Minister whose throat we can always catch either in this House or in the other House should there be next theft of a transistor of any Member of Parliament.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, when every hon. Member becomes a complainant it is very difficult to answer! But let me answer his question in two parts. Firstly, Sir, it is not as though we are complacent. There is a very active exercise which has almost reached the stage of conclusion. To examine whether certain crimes cannot be declared as federal crimes, or inter-state crimes. I did not want to elaborate upon that because an exercise is just about to be completed. When we do reach a conclusion about declaring certain crimes as federal crimes, naturally, the responsibility would be under the Central Government to ensure that suitable action is taken in respect of those crimes. This will require consultation with the State Governments. Therefore I think, the House will

allow me a little time to complete that exercise. When we do identify federal crimes, obviously, crimes on running trains through many states will be one of the federal crimes ... (*Interruptions*) I am only using it as a loose expression—the concept of a federal crime.

Sir, on the second part of the question, the hon. Member is an equally brilliant professional in his own field and he knows as much as I do that entry 2A in List II talks about deployment of Armed Forces in aid of the civil power and it does not contemplate deployment of Armed forcse otherwise than in aid of the civil power. In fact, the RPF is a force which is deployed in aid of the civil power, which is the state Government and which is represented by GRP.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would have certainly disallowed the question, but for the fact that I knew the Minister will reply adequately. Now next question No. 245. Hon. Member absent.

*245. [*The questioner (Shri Jagdambi Prasad Yadav) was absent for answer vide* cols. 33—36 *infra*.]

Next question No. 246. Shri Normal Chatterjee.

Recruitment racket in the Staff Selection Commission

*246. SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE:†

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news items which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated the 29th October, 1986 regarding recruitment racket in the Staff Selection Commission;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what are the reasons for restricting investigations into the racket to the period between 1984—86; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to do justice to those unfortunate persons who were deprived of their chances by those racketeers, including those who opperated prior to 1984—86 period, with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House (*see below*)

(c) It is not the intention of the Government to restrict the investigations to the period 1984—86. In the first instance, scrutiny of the nominations was made from 1-1-1984, in view of the magnitude of the work involved. Having completed this phase, the Staff Selection Commission have called for information from various indenting Departments in regard to the nominations made during the year 1983.

(d) All the persons figuring in the select lists prepared by the Staff Selection Commission were offered appointments.

Statement

Details regarding recruitment racket in the State Selection Commission

The total number of fraudulent nominations which have come to the notice of the Staff Selection Commission so far are as under:

(1)	U.G.C.	40
(2)	C.P.W.D.	43
(3)	C.B.I.	2
(4)	C.B.D.T.	1

In all these cases the services of the candidates have been terminated by the Departments concerned.

After completing inquiries by the Commission on 16th May, 1986 an F.I.R. was lodged with the C.B.I. on 21st May, 1986.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Nirmal Chatterjee.